



MELTHAM

Urban District Council

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1944.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Meltham Urban
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Haigh and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1944.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

The Public Health Officers of the Council are:—
Medical Officer of Health... Dr. Robert Gellatly, M.D.C.M.
Sanitary Inspector... .. Mr. R. G. Suddick.

The appointment of Medical Officer of Health is a part-time one.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Building Surveyor and Water Engineer to the Council and devotes his whole time to the duties of those offices. A contribution to the salaries of these Officers is made by the County Council under arrangement with the Ministry of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA.—The area of the district is 5,906 acres.

POPULATION.—The population at the 1931 Census of Meltham Urban District was 5,051, and the Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population in 1944 is 4,713. This includes the area added to the district in 1938.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1944, according to the Rate Book, was 1,721.

The rateable value of the district on the 1st April, 1944, was £29,886, and a penny rate produced £124 5s. 11d.

The principal industries now carried on in the district are engineering and woollen manufacture, silk dressing, brick making and mixed farming.

These occupations cannot be said to be detrimental to the health of those engaged in them.

VITAL STATISTICS.

(Based on the Registrar-General's estimated population of 4,713).

LIVE BIRTHS...	Total M. F.			Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident civil population 20.15
	Legitimate..	94	52	42
	Illegitimate.	1	0	1
STILL BIRTHS	Legitimate	3	2	1
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births) Births 31.				

Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population 00.63..

DEATHS	63	31	32	} Death Rate per 1,000 of the civilian population 13.36

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	Nil.	...	Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still Births)
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	Nil.	...	Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

				M.	F.
Total	...	...	4	...	3
Legitimate	...	...	4	...	3
Illegitimate	...	...	0	...	0

Death Rates of Infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	42.1
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	42.55
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	12
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	1

The causes of death were: —	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	1	—
Cancer	6	6
Inter-cranial Vascular Lesions ...	5	6
Heart Disease	11	6
Other Dis. of Circ. System ...	—	1
Bronchitis... ..	3	3
Pneumonia	1	2
Other Res. Dis.... ..	—	1
Other Dig. Dis.... ..	1	1
Nephritis... ..	—	2
Diarrhœa under 2 years ...	1	—
Con. Mal., Birth Inj., Infant Dis. ...	1	1
All other Causes	1	3
	<hr/> 31	<hr/> 32

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no developments or changes to record.

Water Supply.

The consumption of water has risen considerably since 1939, and the Council's resources have been aided by supplies bought in bulk from Huddersfield Corporation. The annual consumptions are as follows:—

1939	...	54,530,000 gallons.
1940	...	57,785,000 „
1941	...	53,475,000 „
1942	...	58,869,000 „
1943	...	67,881,000 „
1944	...	70,373,000 „

The 4-inch main from Belle Vue to the stream at Royd Edge was scraped during the year.

By agreement with the Huddersfield Corporation, a recorder was fixed on the Scope supply on June 30th, 1944. By the end of the year some 14,000,000 gallons had been obtained from this source, of which 3,113,000 gallons were obtained in excess of the standard 80,000 gallons per day previously allowed.

The serious floods experienced on Whit-Monday did no damage to the Waterworks.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Work under contract was commenced on alterations at the works to allow of a greater flow, and was proceeding at the end of the year.

Rivers and Streams.

No action found necessary in regard to pollution.

Closet Accommodation.

The closets of each type remaining at the end of 1944 are :—

	Total.	Private.	Common.
Water Closets ...	1074	875	199
Earth Closets ...	141	68	73
Tub Closets ...	168	108	60
	<hr/> 1383	<hr/> 1051	<hr/> 332

The Council supply ash bins on request to property owners at a small margin above cost price, and in approved cases make a grant of £2 and a free dust-bin where owners convert to water closet.

Salvage.

The collection of salvage has been undertaken since early in 1940, and paper, string, rubber, bones, rags and metals are collected, sorted and sold, the paper being baled.

Public Cleansing.

Amount of refuse removed, 1,903 tons 15 cwts. (est. weight). Mileage covered by cleansing waggon, 6,029.

Refuse is disposed of at the Wood Bottom Tip on the controlled system.

The annual cost of the Cleansing Services for the past three years are as follows :—

	1942.	1943.	1944.
	£	£	£
Total Cost ...	1,481	1,444	1,594
Credits from various sources, including Sale of Salvaged Materials ...	417	383	231
	<hr/> £1,063	<hr/> £1,061	<hr/> £1,363

A new Bedford motor waggon was obtained in December.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

INSPECTIONS. NATURE.	Number.	NOTICES.			
		Informal (inclu. Verbal)	Formal.	Complied with.	Outstand- ing at end of year.
Infectious Diseases....	44	—	—	—	—
Disinfection	44	—	—	—	—
Disinfestation	4	—	—	4	—
Nuisances	94	89	—	83	6
Dwellings	181	181	—	1	—
Cowsheds	84	4	—	4	—
Bakehouses	49	8	—	8	—
Slaughter Houses	4	—	—	—	—
Privies and Pail Closets	103	22	—	22	—
Workshops, Workplaces	41	2	—	2	—
Schools	18	1	—	1	—
Rats & Mice Dest. Act .	94	3	—	3	—

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

Under a transfer of powers inaugurated by the Ministry of Food, the Council became the responsible authority for the operation of this Act in their Area. Previously the Act was administered by the County Council.

Two sewer baiting campaigns were undertaken during the year, with satisfactory results.

Shops Act. Ventilation and Temperature.

No action taken under present circumstances.

Smoke Abatement.

No action taken under present circumstances.

Swimming Baths.

No public baths in area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No houses were found infected during the year.

Schools.

The following are the particulars relating to the water supply to the Schools in the area, viz. :—

Meltham	Piped Main Supply.
Meltham Mills ...	Do.
Helme... ..	Do.
Wilshaw	Piped from Private Supply.

There is also a small private kindergarten school supplied from the Council's main.

All the schools were visited during the year, and no action was found necessary.

It has not been necessary to close any school during the year for the purpose of checking the spread of infectious disease.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Inspections have been made during the year.

H O U S I N G .

Housing activities have naturally been restricted during the war, and no new houses have been provided in the district either by the Council or by private individuals.

Two houses were closed voluntarily by the owners as being unfit for habitation.

Lay-out plans for 103 houses were being prepared at the end of the year, the houses to be an extension of the Broadlands Estate.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 6 Accredited producers in the Area. The local Co-operative Society also sell sterilised milk. The number of cowkeepers register is 33 and amongst them they occupy 52 cowsheds and maintain some 400 milk cows.

The supply and distribution of the milk is in the hands of the producers, the farmers, of whom 29 are producer retailers, and four dispose of their milk wholesale.

Inspection of dairies and cowsheds is carried out as often as travelling facilities permit.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

No slaughtering for sale is done in the district under present conditions.

Visits have been paid to shops and stores in the district, and, generally speaking, these are well kept.

There are four bakehouses in the district. The premises are regularly inspected and are clean and satisfactory.

There has been no reported case of Food Poisoning during the year.

(c) ADULTERATION.

The Council is not the Authority under the Food and Drugs Acts, etc.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Arrangements have been made to maintain a supply of Diphtheria Anti-Toxin at the Isolation Hospital.

Artificial immunization against Diphtheria has been carried out both privately and by the County Council at Schools and Clinics.

Prevalence of disease at Schools is notified by the School Attendance Officer.

The District was free from any serious outbreak of non-notifiable infectious disease during the year.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1944.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	44	44	—
Diphtheria... ..	1	1	—
Erysipelas... ..	4	—	—
Pneumonia	13	—	—
Measles	16	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	—

ANALYSIS.

Age ..	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-45	45 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever.....	9	15	11	6	3	—	44
Diphtheria.....	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	1	1	2	4
Pneumonia	2	1	1	—	3	6	13
Measles	10	5	1	—	—	—	16
Whooping Cough..	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total	23	21	13	7	8	8	80

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year one death was registered as due to Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.

Three new cases were added to the register during the year :—

1—Non-Pulmonary...	...	F.	4/12
1—Non-Pulmonary...	...	F.	9
1—Non-Pulmonary...	...	M.	25

The notification of Tuberculosis is satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action taken during the year.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Council maintain an Ambulance for use in accident cases and for the removal of serious cases of non-infectious disease when certified to be necessary by a doctor.

An Ambulance for cases of infectious disease is run by the Colne and Holme Joint Hospital Board from the Hospital at Meltham.

MORTUARY.

The Council maintain a mortuary to accommodate accidents and other cases where death is not due to infectious disease. Facilities are provided for post-mortem examinations.



In conclusion I should like to pay tribute to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk and Officials for the assistance and courtesy extended to me during the year, and to the Sanitary Inspector for his loyal co-operation in my work.

I am,

Miss Haigh and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. GELLATLY.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1944. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administ'v'e County	Meltham
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Births—					
Live	17·6	20·3	20·9	15·0	20·15
Still	0·50	0·64	0·61	0·42	00·63
Deaths—					
All Causes	11·6	13·7	12·4	15·7	13·36
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers }	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Scarlet Fever	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00
Whooping Cough	0·03	0·03	0·02	0·04	0·00
Diphtheria	0·02	0·03	0·03	0·01	0·00
Influenza	0·12	0·10	0·11	0·08	0·00
Smallpox	0·00	—	—	—	—
Measles	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00	0·00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age ...	46	52	44	61	42·1
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4·8	7·3	4·4	10·1	10·53
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Notifications—					
Typhoid Fever	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·01	0·00
Paratyphoid Fever	0·01	0·00	0·01	0·01	0·00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0·05	0·06	0·04	0·06	0·00
Scarlet Fever	2·40	2·41	2·67	1·57	9·33
Whooping Cough	2·49	2·49	2·29	2·90	00·42
Diphtheria	0·58	0·67	0·69	0·31	0·21
Erysipelas	0·29	0·32	0·28	0·37	0·84
Smallpox	0·00	0·00	0·00	0·00	—
Measles	4·16	4·51	3·94	2·98	3·39
Pneumonia	0·97	1·13	0·82	0·93	2·75
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live & Still)					
Notifications—					
Puerperal Fever ... }	10·34	13·13	9·25	{ 3·61	0·00
Puerperal Pyrexia ... }				{ 14·14	
Maternal Mortality— England and Wales)—					
No. 140—Abortion with Sepsis				0·31	
No. 141—Abortion without Sepsis				0·09	
No. 147—Puerperal Infections				0·28	
Nos. 142-6, 148-150, Other				1·25	
Abortion— Mortality per million women aged 15-45 (England and Wales)—					
No. 140—With Sepsis			25		
No. 141—Without Sepsis			7		

